



Public Comment Analysis

Date: February 23, 2010

Topic: Proposed Co-location of a New School 15K749 with Existing Schools in School Building K806

Date of Panel Vote: February 24, 2010

Summary of Proposal

In the 2010-2011 school year, 15K749, a new transfer school that will serve only male students in grades 9-12, will open in school building K806, located at 362 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, in Community School District 15. Transfer schools are small, academically rigorous, diploma granting high schools designed to re-engage students who are over-age and under-credited or have dropped out of high school. 15K749 is designed to support young men who have had limited opportunities for academic and social success in a traditional high school setting.

15K749 will be co-located with a District 75 program (“75K753”) in K806 and, until June 2013, with Metropolitan Corporate Academy (15K530, “Metropolitan Academy”). The Panel for Education Policy has approved the phase-out and eventual closure of Metropolitan Academy. Metropolitan Academy will eliminate one grade each year beginning in 2010-2011 and will close in June 2013.

15K749 will create a new transfer school option in Brooklyn, providing an option for students that are not finding the support they need to graduate from a traditional high school, including some students currently enrolled in schools that are phasing out. 15K749 will open with approximately 125-150 students in 2010-2011 and will grow to scale with approximately 200-250 total students in 2011-2012.

Transfer schools have a strong track record of helping over-age, under-credited students to get back on track to earn their diplomas. Historically, the over-age, under-credited (OA-UC) population completes high school at a rate of 19%; however, OA-UC students who attend transfer schools are roughly 2.5 times more likely to graduate.

An Educational Impact Statement on this proposal was posted on the Department of Education’s Web site on January 8, 2010.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing was held at K806 on February 22, 2010, and all interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Seventeen people attended the hearing. Four members of the public spoke in opposition to the proposal, citing concerns about the school building K806. There is concern that there is insufficient space for the new transfer school to co-locate with the existing schools in the building. The point was raised that the student population of the new school will be similar to the population already attending Metropolitan Academy and there was concern about how current students will relate with the new students. One council member gave testimony and he noted that Metropolitan Corporate Academy should have been given the resources to thrive at K806. He said that Metropolitan Corporate Academy had asked to transfer to another more appropriate building on many occasions but their requests had been denied. He noted that the building was not appropriate for transfer school students, who are an at-risk population and that placing these students in crowded, ill-maintained environments and expecting them to succeed is unacceptable.

Summary of Issues Raised in Written and Oral Comments and Significant Alternatives Suggested

No oral comments regarding this proposal have been received. The councilmember who provided oral comments at the joint public hearing on February 22, 2010 also submitted his comments as written testimony. No significant alternatives have been proposed.

Analysis of Issues Raised, Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to the Proposal

With respect to concerns that there is not enough space in the building for a new transfer school, building K806 has the capacity to accommodate 15K749 without displacing students at either of the two schools currently housed in the facility. The 2008-2009 target capacity of K806 was 517 students and the target utilization for the building was 97 percent. As of October 31, 2009, Metropolitan Academy had 379 students on its register. The Panel for Educational Policy approved the closure of Metropolitan Academy in January and that school will not admit a new class of ninth-grade students next fall. 15K749 will gradually grow into the space currently utilized by Metropolitan Academy as that school phases out and eventually closes. Furthermore, transfer schools, and this school in particular, have a model where the students participate in internships so they will not all be in the building at one time, which will help with the congestion. Also, the DOE has made some capital improvements to building K806 recently, including the construction of a new High School science lab. For the 2010-2011 school year, Metropolitan Academy, 15K749 and the District 75 program will form a Building Council with DOE support to jointly make decisions about how to create a safe and productive environment for all of the schools to co-exist in the building.

Accordingly, no changes to the proposal have been made. The proposal will be presented to the Panel for Educational Policy as it is currently posted.

A copy of the educational impact statement for this proposal can be obtained at <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/585A6F4E-316F-45AF-A1C4-0F38AC7260E8/75227/K806NewTransferEISFinal1811.pdf>.

**Prepared by
Department of Education**